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What is claimed is:

- 1           1.    An interactive financial information  
2   exchange tool comprising:
  - 3               a network interface connected to an external  
4   network;
  - 5               a processing circuit coupled to the network  
6   interface; and
  - 7               a memory coupled to the processing circuit,  
8   the memory storing, for execution by the processing  
9   circuit, instructions for:
    - 10              receiving a query from a remote user over  
11   the network interface;
    - 12              presenting the query to an online analyst;
    - 13              accepting an answer to the query from the  
14   online analyst; and
    - 15              sending the answer to the remote user over  
16   the network interface.
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7           accepting an answer to the query from the  
8   online analyst; and

9           sending the answer to the remote user over  
10   the network interface.

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1           5.   The method for interactive financial  
2   information exchange of claim 4, further comprising  
3   the steps of:

4           opening, at the remote user, an information  
5   link selected by the online analyst.

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1           6.   The interactive financial information  
2   exchange method of claim 4, further comprising the  
3   steps of:

4           directing the query to a hub analyst who  
5   selects at a hub destination the online analyst to  
6   answer the query; and

7           forwarding the query to the hub destination.

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1           7.    The interactive financial information  
2   exchange tool of claim 3, further comprising within the  
3   memory instructions for redirecting the query to a  
4   further hub destination.

1           8.    The interactive financial information  
2   exchange tool of claim 3, further comprising within the  
3   memory instructions for redirecting the query to a  
4   further hub analyst.

1           9.    The interactive financial information  
2   exchange method of claim 6, further comprising the step  
3   of redirecting the query to a further hub destination.

1           10.   The interactive financial information  
2   exchange method of claim 6, further comprising the step  
3   of redirecting the query to a further hub analyst.

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